

ORIGINAL

FILED

12/05/2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

December 2, 2016

Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

FILED

DEC 05 2016

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule due to religious freedom. As a Christian, I feel that my religious freedom is under attack. Why it is alright for everyone else's belief to be protected and mine is not? Religious freedom is a way to express my belief and a fundamental right as a human. I deeply believe that religious freedom allows one to act on their core beliefs without persecution. We should be able to express ourselves through the legal profession and in any and all aspects of our lives. By saying that marriage is between one man and one woman, we are not judging or disrespecting anyone; we are only expressing our religion and freedom of speech.

All of these freedoms are established in the United States through the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

WTS

Carol Withers
507 N. 10th St.
Livingston, MT 59047